

A very strange and unusual thing happened. One day not so long ago, away out west where the spaces are far apart. A small and unimportant black duckling was hatched by an other wise respectable Mother hen.

This self same black, but ugly duckling, was the source of an awful lot of trouble and worry. Neither the Father or the Mother liked the little beast. ~~so~~ what were they to do, but to step right up and disown him, they proceeded to throw him right out into the cold cruel world, without any Mother to guide him.

However as is frequently the case, under such conditions, the other twelve children, interceded with the heartless Mother, for the unwanted child, begged her with tears in their eyes and their honest little hearts nearly breaking. At last the mother consents to give the ugly thing a chance---per chance--who can tell---it might grow to be a Swan.

And then bye and bye, as events slowly take their course, just two hours later, these poor innocent and unprotected children are playing in the neighborhood of a hungry and unscrupulous cat. This sort of thing often leads to complication, as was the case at this time.

Well, any way, this time things are getting quite serious, the cat had captured three chicks, but had failed, for some unknown reason to capture our friend the homely, but honest duckling. Well, this is as it should be.

This self same black, and unwanted duckling toddled himself right home to Mamma and spills the whole beans. So, then ~~she~~ came the rescue stuff. But--that wasn't all- No! No! The duck had to step right out and do some more of his stuff before that day was ended, Yes! because that dirty unscrupulous villian of a cat, when he saw that he was cornered threw the bag with the chicks inside, right into the cold swift river and hied himself away for dear life.

Well, what do you think, our ugly friend jumps right into the raging torrents and without a swimming lesson in his life, swam bravely to the rescue, and restored the legitimate children to their parents.

Forever and ever there after the ugly duckling was looked up to as the best swimmer in the family and was given a seat at the family table.

AESOP says:

"One good turn deserves another."

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